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Allen-Scott Report

Ray Hunt Cost Over \$5 Million



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By PAUL SON

Washington — Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation went through one very tense period and spent more than \$5 million during their brilliantly conducted two-continent man hunt for James Earl Ray, the accused killer of Dr. Martin Luther King.

After successfully tracking and locating Ray in London early in May, the G-men temporarily lost his trail when he slipped through their surveillance network and flew to Portugal.

While Ray's disappearance almost caused a near panic among top Justice Department officials here, cooler-headed FBI agents directing the search kept the search from collapsing by immediately setting up a new drag-net.

With only the lead that Ray, alias Raymon George Sneyd, had apparently fled to Europe, the FBI agents reasoned that because of his temperament and the foreign language barrier he would soon return to an English-speaking country.

Special watches for Ray were then carefully organized at all ports of entry in Great Britain, Canada, and the U.S., on the belief that the suspect would try to return to one of those nations.

Before any heads within the agency could roll, the swift chain of events that followed proved the effectiveness of the FBI strategy.

Eleven days after his second disappearance, Ray, alias Sneyd, flew back to London from Lisbon. With the help of British authorities, the FBI again picked up his trail.

Ray was then kept under close surveillance until he suddenly prepared again to depart Great Britain for Europe — this time for Brussels. He was arrested at London Airport before he could board his plane.

Despite Ray's capture, the FBI investigation of King's assassination is far from being closed.

One agent involved in the inquiry says privately that "the arrest of Ray is only the beginning of this inquiry." He points out that "Ray is the key to determining the others involved in the assassination plot."

For instance, FBI and Canadian authorities are still investigating how Ray was able to exploit legal loopholes like a pro in obtaining his Canadian passport.

Several dozen agents are probing Ray's alleged contacts with U.S.-based American South African Council, which he wrote on Dec. 20, 1967, to ask about emigrating to Rhodesia. Also, being

carefully checked is Ray's connection to FBI photographs and identification and/or major U.S. sources of this document.

One of the ironies of the successful FBI investigation is that just two months before the King assassination, the bureau was obliged to cut in half the number of agents in Europe, including those in London as a result of President Johnson's order slashing overseas personnel of all government security and intelligence agencies.

In their intensive search for King's killer, the FBI spent more than \$5 million in the first nine weeks of its investigation. At times, upward to 3,000 agents were assigned to the case.

Half that number of agents are still involved in the continuing investigation. In addition to running down new leads, they are rechecking Ray's travels to and from Memphis, the scene of the assassination.

When Ray's trail led to London, however, many of these agents were sent back overseas with instructions to forget about the economy move until the suspected assassin was picked up.

One of the most important decisions that President Johnson will make before leaving office next January concerns possible publication of sealed documents from the Warren Commission inquiry of the assassination of President Kennedy.

At least 20 per cent of the commission's files remain locked in the National Archives, where the full record of the Kennedy assassination probe is filed.

A list of more than 250 of the sealed documents was prepared recently by attorneys of the Justice Department for further reexamination to determine if their publication should be recommended to the President.

Most intriguing are reports of the Central Intelligence Agency dealing with the private reaction of high Cuban officials to the assassination.

Other deals with a top secret CIA memorandum from Richard Helms (now CIA director) to J. Lee Rankin, chief counsel of the Warren Commission. It is listed under the heading "Report of conversations between Cuban President and Cuban Ambassador."

Also still under seal is a CIA memorandum from Helms to the Commission which carries the following notation: "Discussions between Soviet Premier Khrushchev and Drew Pearson re Lee Harvey Oswald. Neither Helms nor Pearson ever commented publicly on this memorandum or its content."

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By ROBERT S. ALLEN
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WASHINGTON — North Korea appears to be positioning its military forces for a new invasion of South Korea.

Recent Communist troop movements near the demilitarized zone, separating north from south at the 38th Parallel, are even causing U. S. intelligence experts to warn that the military offensive could come during the June 24-25 anniversary of North Korea's 1950 invasion.

Kim Il-Sung, the Soviet-trained premier of North Korea who launched that first offensive, has pledged to open a 'new front against the U. S. at the appropriate time.'

Significantly, Kim has in recent days put all his military forces on a war-time alert and issued a decree which in effect has caused full mobilization of North Korean manpower and industry.

In addition to these military moves, Kim has already supplied more than 50 Korean pilots to the battered North Vietnamese airforce, which is being completely rebuilt during the present U. S. halt of all bombing above the 19th parallel.

As reported in this column on February 2, the President's intelligence advisers have been warning him that the Kremlin planned a series of closely connected crises in West Berlin, Korea, Vietnam and Cuba this summer.

As forecast then, these crises will be linked closely with massive demonstrations and riots planned in Washington and other major U. S. cities.

The West Berlin forecast is already a reality.

Most immediate danger area outside of West Berlin and South Vietnam is South Korea, where neither the 2nd nor the 7th U. S. Infantry divisions can be called combat ready, according to a study just completed by the Senate Armed Services Preparedness Subcommittee.

While the U. S. Air Force in South Korea has been vastly increased since the USS Pueblo seizure caught it with half a dozen planes, the North Korean jets now outnumber it by around two to one.

The subcommittee's report also noted that both Army divisions are below strength, greatly deficient in captains and majors, and hampered by a lack of equipment and spare parts diverted to Vietnam.

According to the latest U. S. intelligence estimates, North Korea reconnaissance attacks in force can be expected at any time — including this week-end.

A captured North Korean "or-

der of battle" calls for probing attacks all along the 156-mile front in order to disrupt communication lines, create economic chaos, and lay the groundwork for an externally supported and guided revolt.

Several months ago the North Koreans began stockpiling 60-days supply of food and military equipment, including all types of spare parts and ammunition, just north of the demilitarized zone.

At least, five new North Korean divisions have now been moved into these front line positions.

One military intelligence group, which correctly forecast the present East German pressure on West Berlin, is now warning that it is the policy of the Kremlin to involve U. S. forces with those of other Communist nations on as many fronts as possible this summer.

Once the U. S. is deeply involved in these crises, they claim, the Russians plan to send large numbers of ground troops for the first time into the Middle East — probably stationing them in Egypt at that country's request.

Canadian Passports — James Earl Ray, the suspected assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was the latest of scores of criminals and Communist spies who for years have been outwitting law enforcement agencies around the world with Canadian passports.

Most important of these fugitives, and one who is now being held by South African authorities, is the agent Moscow assigned to set up a new super-spy network throughout the Western hemisphere.

Yuri Nikolaevitch Loginov, whose accidental capture in Johannesburg was one of the biggest spy catches in 10 years, has told South African security authorities that his actual target country was the U. S., to which he planned to travel via Canada.

According to information furnished the FBI and CIA, Loginov's main mission was to build a new Soviet espionage team within America's "new left," including the hiring of assassins among them.

In one of his reports forwarded to Washington, Major-General H. J. Van Den Bergh, chief of Canadian passport and the way it was obtained should be of special interest to U. S. authorities.

Loginov's passport, he pointed out, was provided by Yevgenny Mikhailovich, a high-ranking member of the KGB (Soviet Secret Police) who serves as a Russian diplomat in Canada.



The Deepening Mystery of Dr. King's Assassination

WASHINGTON—Six weeks after the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Negro leader's alleged assassin remained the world's most-wanted fugitive.

Deepening mystery screened the whereabouts of James Earl Ray, alias Eric Starvo Galt, sought as the sniper who killed Dr. King in Memphis on April 4.

In the belief of some investigators, Ray's disappearance in the face of one of the most intensive manhunts ever pressed gave credence to a theory that he was a gunman hired by conspirators who engineered not only Dr. King's slaying but the death of the assassin.

Foreign plot? One conjecture discussed behind the scenes in official Washington was that the assassination of Dr. King was plotted in a foreign country. Castro's Cuba and Red China figured in speculation. The reasoning went this way:

Western intelligence agents assume that co-ordinated terrorism is one phase of co-operation between Havana and Peking—and that both of these Communist regimes, hoping to foment widespread racial strife in the U. S., might have looked upon assassination of Dr. King as a trigger.

Such a plot, according to some specialists in international Communist intrigue, could have involved the expertly aided flight of the killer—and his own subsequent execution, to make sure that he was silenced forever.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has maintained a "no comment" attitude on the conspiracy theory.

The official view. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, on the American Broadcasting Company's "Issues and Answers" television program on May 12, was asked whether he thought Ray was still alive. The Attorney General replied: "We have no evidence to believe that he is not still alive."

The next question to Mr. Clark:

"There are . . . theories inevitably that he was not a man alone, that he may have been a hired killer, even hired by foreign agents. Do you have any evidence along those lines?"

The Attorney General's answer:

"I think it is perhaps not constructive to speculate on those things at this time. Our evidence indicates a man acting alone. This does not negate other theories. Our purpose now is to find the man we are looking for, and perhaps these

other details will unfold after we have done that."

Visit to Mexico. One international aspect of the hunt centers upon Mexico. The FBI turned up information that Ray—shortly after he had acquired mysteriously a sizable bankroll—visited Mexico in October, 1967.

An unanswered question: Was an assassination plot then being hatched, and was Ray in touch with Castroite or other foreign agents in Mexico?

Mexican authorities are co-operating in the attempt to solve the mystery.

Meanwhile, investigators have kept looking for leads in other places to



JAMES EARL RAY: subject of "most massive manhunt ever undertaken" by FBI.

which Ray traveled during the year between his escape from a Missouri prison and the assassination of Dr. King—Canada, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Birmingham among them.

Ray was last reported seen in Atlanta—on April 5, some 15 hours after the murder in Memphis.

As search lengthens—On "Issues and Answers," Attorney General Clark described the search for the fugitive as "the most massive manhunt ever undertaken" by the FBI and co-ordinated local law-enforcement agencies.

The longer that search failed to yield results, the greater the doubt among some investigators and other officials that Ray, as a "loner," could have evaded the dragnet. Nor did scrutiny of Ray's background suggest that he was capable

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of planning and carrying out the assassination without the help and guidance of skilled conspirators.

As the theory of a foreign plot gains circulation in Washington, stress is placed on the hypothesis that the killer given a down payment in advance of the crime and promised a bigger payoff later, might have been paid off, instead with death.

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